

An Essay on Malarial
Fever
by John Hendree
of Richmond
Virginia

admitted March 7th 1821

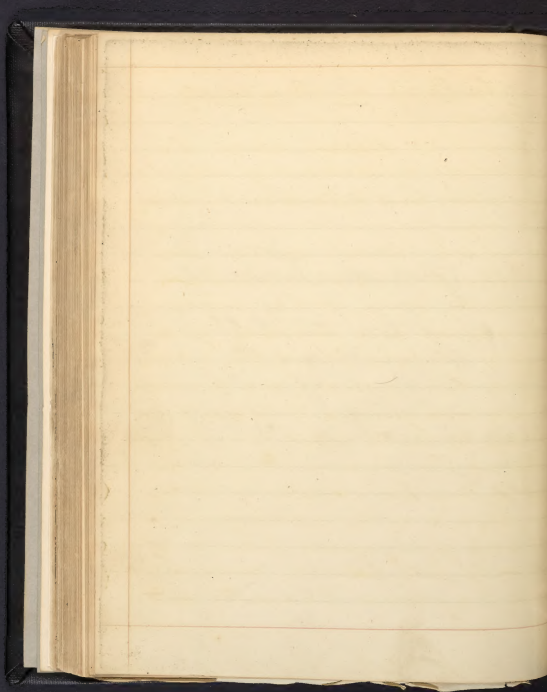
John Hendree:
No 40 Sanson St

Mr. Chapin on the subject
of the
of the
of the
of the

Admitted March 21 1851

The Power of the Mind

First it is shown that the
power of the mind is not
limited by the senses of sight
and hearing but extends to
the whole of the universe
and is not confined to the
body of the individual. It is
shown that the mind is not
a passive receiver of
information but is an active
agent in the process of
knowing. The power of the
mind is not limited by the
senses of sight and hearing
but extends to the whole of
the universe and is not
confined to the body of the
individual. It is shown that
the mind is not a passive
receiver of information but
is an active agent in the
process of knowing. The
power of the mind is not
limited by the senses of sight
and hearing but extends to
the whole of the universe
and is not confined to the
body of the individual.



An Essay on Puerperal
Fever

There is no disease, upon the pathology & treatment of which, physicians have differed more widely, and more frequently, than the one which I have selected for the subject of this dissertation.

While by some, it has been considered as a malady of a highly sthenic Character, by others it has been regarded, as a disease strongly & unequivocally Characterised, by an opposite state of the system — The treatment too, of this disease, has necessarily been as various, as the pathological opinions of physicians concerning it — Of late however, opinion upon the general Character and

treatment of this disease, is more settled; and it appears now to be pretty generally conceded, that it, is in the majority of instances, essentially an inflammatory one, & that consequently, the treatment best adapted to its cure, must be depletory and decidedly antiphlogistic.

But, we will proceed to give the symptoms of the disease..

This disease most generally occurs, on the third or fourth day after delivery. The period of its attack says Mr. Hay "took place under my own observation, at all times, from twenty hours after delivery, to the sixth day; and I have heard of its occurring after a week. In a large

" proportion of cases, the disease
" made its appearance about, or
" within the expiration of forty
" eight hours

These variations in the period
of attack, may arise from several
causes — The disease often comes
on, in an insidious and obscure
manner. Most frequently it com-
mences with chills, which vary
considerably in their violence
and duration — These are
followed by great heat and
dryness of the skin; the face
is usually pallid after the heat
has gone off, the countenance
expressing much anxiety; pain
in the head of a peculiar kind,
viz. as if a cord were forcibly
bound around the fore-head —

The Pulse is frequent & tense
denoting inflammation; the
lochia are diminished, and the
breasts become more flaccid
than is natural; if the secretion
of milk has not taken place
it is generally prevented. Pain
about the abdomen and region
of the Pubes comes on and the
patient relaxes the abdominal
muscles to obtain relief. There
is great fulness of the belly and
oppression; the respiration is much
affected; and nausea & sometimes
bilious vomiting ensue. The
Tongue is furred, & often moist
round the edges; constipation
arises until about the third day,
when there is generally some
remission.



The disease not being arrested here, it goes on to the second stage or Typhoid condition, which is indicated by great prostration of all the vital powers. The Pulse becomes increased in frequency, soft & compressible.

A rapid increase of the fulness and tension of the belly take place. The uterus may frequently be perceived, forming a distinct tumour above the pubes. The patient is much inclined to lay on her back; when she turns on her side, she feels a sensation, as if something was falling. She becomes very restless, throws her arms about the bed, as if to remove something which disturbed her. She makes



frequent efforts to rise, and
begins to talk incoherently. When
collected a deep gloom hangs
on her countenance, and there
is a great indifference about
surrounding objects; she does
not inquire about her infant,
the first object of a mother's care;
the breath becomes offensive; a
dewy perspiration hangs on the
forehead; there are frequent
involuntary stools, which are
dark and ~~black~~ fetid, & often
attended with black vomiting.
The pain of the abdomen
ceases; the patient thinks her-
self getting better; fatal
delusion! The pulse becomes
tremulous, and so quick as not
to be counted; a low muttering



Albium issues; the tongue becomes
dry - brown, and if the disease
is of long continuance, the teeth
become covered with scales; pur-
ple spots appear on the body and
the whole surface is covered
with a clammy sweat. The
patient sinks into stupor, which
is followed by effusion, suppurating,
and the fair sufferer is relieved
by death -

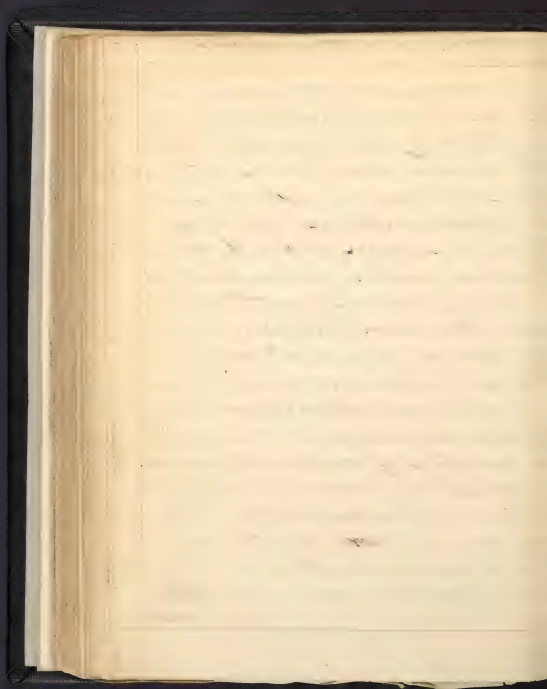
Diagnosis.

In peritonitis swelling,
tension, & pain of the abdomen,
are among the most prominent
symptoms. The swelling
increases rapidly; the pulse
is frequent, small & weak; the
tongue clean or white and dry.
In puerperal fever there is more



and tenderness, debility, more head
ache, less heat of the skin, thirst,
and flushing of the face. Puer-
peral metritis never arises from contagion,
or prevails as an epidemic.

In inflammation of the
uterus, the pain is dull, and
situated in the lower part of
the belly, which is not tender
to the touch. The pain is not
felt when the patient lies
still. The pulse varies con-
siderably, & is not so full. The
lochiai discharge continues, and
the secretion of milk is not checked.
Lancinating pains through the
uterine region suggest. The
diagnosis, between Puerperal and
uterine inflammation, as they
most commonly occur, and ~~be~~
prevalence



Puerperal fever, are but indistinctly marked. —

Puerperal fever is easily distinguished from after pains, by the intervals of ease, the absence of fever and abdominal tension, which attend the latter.

The patient being in an easy situation, & the attack taking place at an advanced period after delivery, the chances of recovery are very great; the breathing becoming slower and less laborious, gradual subsidence of abdominal tension; diminution of the size of the uterus; the patient being able to lay on her side, with comfort; reappearance of the lochia; menses after copious stools, and then losing



their fetid smell; the pulse becoming slower, with a moist skin, and having a natural feel, afford a favourable prognosis —

Unfavourable Prognosis —

The disease occurring in large towns, or in crowded hospitals, and at an early period after delivery, the chances are against recovery — great swelling of the belly, and its rapid increase, when the patient feels or complains but little is unfavourable; so is an excess of irritability, to be attended; frequent sighing; agitated countenance; great restlessness and tossing about the bed; tremors of the limbs, twisting of the tendons, convulsions



motion of the upper lip; sudden transition from great pain to perfect ease; these with cold clammy skin, fluttering pulse, the throat & mouth becoming foul, with low muttering delirium, leave but a shadow of hope remaining—

On Dissection.

We find a considerable quantity of fluid effused, through the whole of the cavity of the abdomen; the ementum, peritoneum, mesentery, mesocolon, stomach, liver & the large & small intestines much inflamed, and often the uterus with its appendages and the bladder affected. Dissections have sometimes shown the ementum



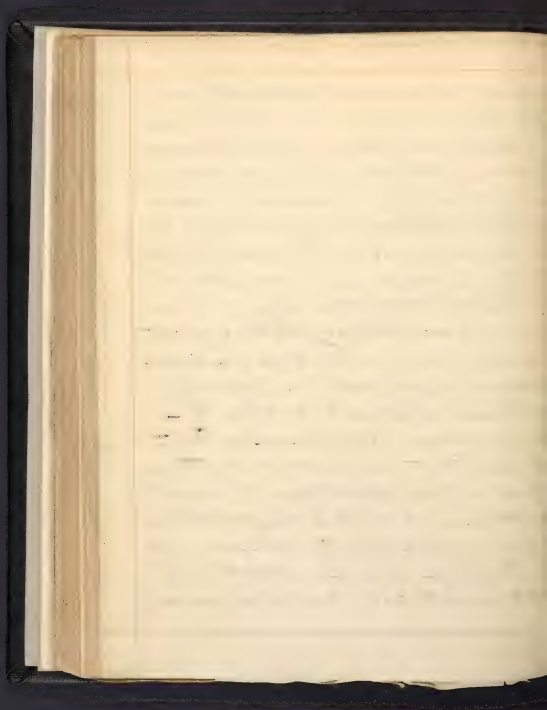
to be torn away; - this event,
however is rare - The gland
also occasionally, by dissection
that the swelling is not always
proportioned to or dependant
on the inflammation or ef-
fusion, but on flatus and
constipation -

Paralytic

During gestation, the bowels
would be kept open, if not
sufficiently so naturally, by
mild laxatives. If there be
too high a state of uterine
action, depletion is necessary;
gentle exercise in the open
air should be used - Bowels
opened by pills, & even, adventure
without any mechanical means
may do injury to the woman



must be avoided, when
the time arrives to require
the attendance of the Accou-
cher, let him direct that the
operation be properly con-
ducted, & cleansed; the mind of
the patient, is to be kept in a
state of calm repose; all solic-
itudes about the matter to be
quitted — During labour, great
delicacy on the part of the Accou-
cher, is required he taking
particular care to avoid all
unnecessary interference with
the patient; and when nature
requires his assistance he must
cautiously avoid doing violence
to any of the parts concerned
in labour, particularly if
there exists any appearance of



an inflammatory diathesis.
The patient must be carefully
guarded against the use of stimulating
drinks or food. The necessity of
the use of cooling regimen must be
urged; and let the patient be
attention to the frequent changes
of her linen, and all her attendants
equally as to the cleanliness of her
person, & clothing. It is not to
be disturbed by visitors. If consti-
pation exists we must direct her
mild laxatives, so as to secure her
gentle action. The inflammatory
diathesis which exists, however in the
period of gestation, shows the necessity
of a change, to a system which
the entire system requires.

Delivery

Having finished the symptoms





has taken place & Dr. Gordon speaks
with great confidence of success,
if twenty four or six ounces of
blood be taken within the first
eight hours of the attack, & mixed
in with ice evacuations. It is
impossible to restrict the time,
and quantity of blood to be taken,
in this inflammatory disease.

Bleedings are medicines
which demand our particular
attention. The favourable
termination of this complaint
by the intervention of an operation was
discovered, gave much reason to hope
for success, in creating an artificial
one. The bleeding is to be
followed up by Expectorant
active purgatives, for four or five
days; when, if a violent inflammation



impregnation is made, he expects
us to be kept in a solid state
by the neutral salts

Dr Jackson recommends the use
of opiates every night, but the
patient may be the better able
to stand, he prescribes the next
morning - Nathan is directly opposed
to him in his practice, as will
consequently be the case when
he prescribed them. To reconcile
his practice appears by no means
difficult; the cases which occurred
at Leeds were much more
inflammatory than those which
occurred at Aberdeen, as is manifest
in the treatment. As the
commencement depletion was
carried to a much greater extent
at Leeds than at Aberdeen, and



we find a repetition of it in and
where at Aberdeen, lateral ex-
posure was reduced by the first
beaching - Here then, perhaps,
would afford relief, when it is
at Leeds Bay would be mischief.

Quartz has been used as
a substitute for other minerals and
not success. In many respects
it is the same if no relief
is obtained from actual mining
we cannot expect any from
a artificial - If mining is
to be done, the before hand is a
state of actual action; &
reference should be given to
the combination of circumstances
to the utmost to be done, as
to practical and the latter
for its certainty. -



Blisters have been objected to
as a local remedy, on account of
the great tenderness of the abdomen;
to show the necessity of blisters
founded on the very objection,
I quote a passage from the lecture
of Professor Chakman,

"I cannot say," the professor, "in
any objection to blisters in general
of use. They are eminently be-
neficial, especially in enteritis
or peritonitis. I have
employed them with equal
advantage in child bed fever
where the peritonium was im-
plicated. The very tenderness
of the abdomen, which con-
stitutes the alleged objection is
relieved by the blister, and is
one of the circumstances, which



in my opinion calls for its
"application"

Blister may also be applied
to the back of the neck to relieve
pain in the head. As auxiliary
& other means, says Mr. Hay, we
may use fomentations of warm
water to the abdomen.

The late Dr. J. J. J. of this
city, & Hiram's Home, has
recommended cold affusion.

Mr. John Buran of Dublin,
some years ago, published a paper
on the great efficacy of the use
of turpentine in pericarditis, & during
he exhibits it freely in every
stage of the disease, at the same
time using it externally by means
of blisters to the abdomen.

Professor Chapman, in his



Therapeutics, when treating of the
turpentine, speaks of the practice
of Mr. Breman & says "of this treatment,
"my theoretical notions will not
allow me to approve, though
I am not willing altogether to
condemn it entirely. The action
of turpentine is very peculiar, as
is illustrated in scalds, burns, and
some other cases, and it is not
absolutely absurd to suppose,
that it may, in the same way,
"counteract, peritoneal inflam-
mation, which seems to have
constituted the cases of peritonitis
fever in which it was employed.

Professor James is of opinion
that the practice of Mr. Breman is
bold and is no means judicious,
as it regards the internal use of



St. Iovachin; at least, he would
not resort to the exhibition of the
medicine in the early stage of the
disease, while he could command
such other means as he considers
more safe, and more efficient
in obtaining it; but, the professor
thinks it may be used externally
to the abdomen as a rubefacient,
with advantage equally so with
the St. Cam. has. and that it
may be exhibited internally
in the sinking condition.

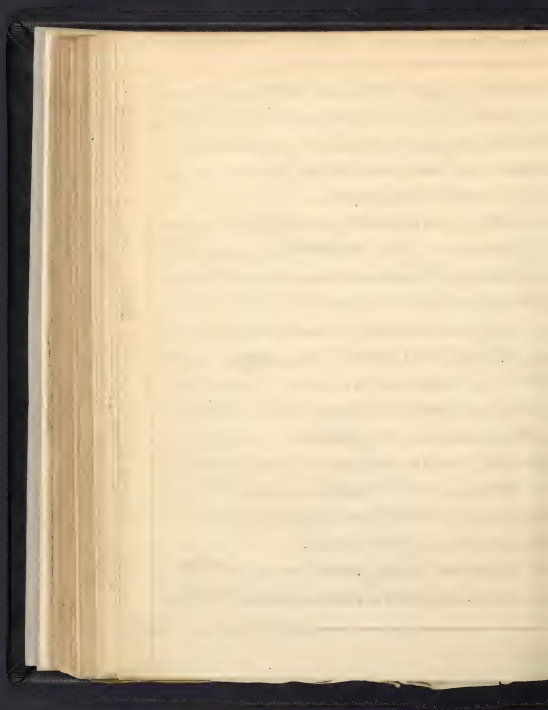
Since the appearance of the
paper of Mr. Breton, alluded to
by professor Chapman, he Mr.
Breton, has made a communi-
cation to the Editors of the Medical
Chirurgical Journal & Review for
1810 where in he repeats the



great success which attended the
use of the Turpentine, not only in
puerperal fever but in various
diseases, as an extract from his
paper will show.

" In my private practice as a
physician in Dublin (says Mr.
Brenan) I have saved the lives
of thousands since that period
by the judicious exhibition of
the Spt. of Turpentine, as adjunction to
other medicines, in various
diseases; and I have had the
satisfaction to find many
worthy men amongst my medical
brethren, who have adopted my
practice with success & grateful
acknowledgements.

Mr. Brennan then goes on to state
two cases of puerperal fever, which



in conjunction with some highly respectable physicians, he treated with success, by the exhibition of the *Ext. of turpentine* in doses of a half ounce, at the same time applying it to the abdomen, he resorted to it both in the highly inflammatory and low state of the disease, he also prescribed it as an enema from which he derived much good. —

With great deference to the opinion of every gentleman, with whom I may differ as to the powers of the *Ext. of turpentine*, that it is a medicine *Sui generis*, in its action, will not be denied, we do know this medicine was exhibited freely to patients (at the yellow



fever hospitals, the last summer,
labouring under highly malarial
non-typhoid fever, & the attending
physicians of that institution
Doctors Chapman & Hewson,
have declared to be won on
their conviction of the great
efficacy of the use of turpentine
in the treatment of malarial
fever affections.

More certainly attestations from
such high authorities increase
the importance of the
turpentine, not only in pro-
moting fever but in various
diseases and these made in
the face of the usual (chal-
lenging contradictions) of a
medicine universally acknowl-
edged to be very poisonous in



its occasional & in its diseases
that had almost been confined
and abolished. Medicines,
however, to see the heart of
it the various attempts and
elaborate investigations of
the medical faculty on
this side of the Atlantic.

All the means used having
failed to arrest the disease, it
passes on to the second stage,
when, says Wray, who has no hope
of saving the patient, we may give
the medicines and tonics which are
prescribed but cannot do good,
while ^{as life nears} hope and living
being lost we may keep up the
evacuations by purges even though
effusion and suppuration have
taken place, and sustain the



patient with nutritious diet

Thus have we treated of a disease that commeth & ravages on the fairest portion of Creation. Having failed to effect a cure, do we rest here contented and search no further for its antidote? no, let us analyze all nature, inquire into the animal, the vegetable and the mineral kingdoms, and see what resources we have there, let difficulty, imminent difficulty, energetic man, must rise superior to them all when engaged in the great cause of humanity, once having gained the point, he dispels all fear and alarm & will have achieved a noble end, the laurels which then await him

are more reasonable than the
golden fleece or the Roman
Eagle, and while he gently
glides on to "an other and a better
World" each fond mother will
teach her sucking babe to prattle
his name, and thus will his
memory be cherished "until
the streams of time shall
be absorbed in the abyss of
Eternity." "

